

## Transportation Committee Hearing – Wilbur Cross H.S., New Haven, Connecticut, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013

A good evening to all the Transportation Committee members, fellow Connecticut residents, and all others present.

My name is Marieah C. Viviel Rozo-Guallpa, I live at 54 Judith Terrace in New Haven, and have served as a Justice of the Peace, Notary Public and Certified Elections Moderator and interpreter for approximately a decade.

I traveled here tonight to respectfully urge the Transportation Committee to please support Bill #6037, which would allow the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to issue a motor vehicle operator's license to certain undocumented immigrants.

This legislation is important to me because all Connecticut drivers should be tested, licensed and insured. I have lived in Connecticut for approximately 17 years. When I first moved to Connecticut from New York – after a life-changing auto accident, while I was a pedestrian, walking between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which caused lifelong nerve damage – I had to learn to move, walk, climb *and drive* again. I have retold my story to some students at Gateway during my class to inspire them, but tonight I have only three short minutes, so I'll be brief. Inspector Istvan, of Handicap Driver Training at the Department of Motor Vehicles, gave me Dr. Frank Kenel's book, *Studying for a Driver's License*, which was much easier to memorize than the DMV manual, and patiently taught me how to drive again, within the limits, and *in spite* of my disability.

As hard as it was for *me*, he always repeated how important it was for me to understand it was *his* job, not only to train me, but also to protect the lives of *everyone else* on the road. When he said that, I am sure he meant *everyone*. Whether they were youngsters getting off the school bus, elderly slowly crossing the intersection as fast as they're able, bag-laden shoppers in the Mall parking lot, *irrelevant* of what their condition or status was – everyone. Every life is worth protecting – so everyone must be tested to have the privilege of being on the road. Thousands are, and will continue to drive untested, unlicensed and uninsured – that's unacceptable. It just makes sense to test everyone – because if everyone is expected to adhere to the law, then everyone should be allowed to comply and obey – to obtain auto insurance and lawfully pay taxes on their vehicle. The ITIN number, already used to pay taxes by those without a social security number, could be used to do it. As an Elections Moderator, I suggest adding a symbol, just like on an organ donor's license, to denote non-voters, right on the card.

As an American born citizen, a native New Yorker, a latina, and now a *New Havener*, I am required to be licensed. Surely the local authorities and insurance companies would do well, *very well*, to also consider the income to be generated by the thousands who want to do the right thing – let them, help them. You have been given the authority to keep us safe. Do it.

Respectfully,

M. C. Viivel Rozo-Guallpa

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